

Hillsboro Sustainability Task Force Meeting Summary

April 24, 2017, 3:00 - 5:00 PM

Attendees: Heather Robinson (Chair), Evan Aldrete, Carol Brown, Heidi Burkart, Linda Everett, Rick Hodges (for Mary Moerlins), Anthony Martin, Mac Martin, Willey Paul, Jeff Pazdalski, Laura Schaefer, Tacy Steele, Peter Brandom, Jason Robertson, Dacia Bakkum

Absent: Tova Broadbent, Bob Grover, Caitlin Horsley, David McIlroy, Mary Moerlins, Carly Riter

Welcome

Peter welcomed the group including two new Task Force members, Evan Aldrete and Hillsboro City Councilor, Anthony Martin.

Annual Work Plan

- Peter shared the [annual work plan](#) with the Task Force.

Annual Partner Survey

Jason Robertson, Task Force Advisor, presented the new annual survey online format. He said the Task Force had identified approximately 20 potential “pilot projects” under each of the three goal areas. The team will use responses to supplement the annual report information and add additional context for the various empirical data indicators. He encouraged action owners to share highlights and/or identify challenges so the Task Force can follow up as necessary. Partner surveys are due by May 26. The survey is available at www.hstfsurvey.com.

Task Force Structure

Peter and Jason discussed the current structure and role of the Task Force. The Task Force is currently responsible for keeping the projects in the Environmental Sustainability Plan moving forward and reviewing the annual report. At the same time, the City implements its own Sustainability Plan. While there is no pressing need to modify either, the team is interested in Task Force observations and goals for the future.

Other cities have different structures including Sustainability departments, divisions or commissions. Questions that were posed to the group include:

- Is the current role of the Task Force still comfortable and appropriate?
- Should Hillsboro consider a more formalized commission to guide and implement policy (e.g., plastic bag ban)?
- Are we covering all of the needed topics or aspects? Are we missing anything?
- Have Task Force members observed other ways to track progress that might also work for Hillsboro?

Laura commented that it is important to have a group to take a holistic approach and oversee the broader implementation efforts to keep things cohesive and moving forward. She also suggested a strong link between sustainability and livability is important. Task Force members remain interested in the potential for an

expanded educational component, where feasible and appropriate. Peter encouraged Task Force members to respond with additional thoughts or observations at any time.

Feature Topic: Sustainability Revolving Grant Fund

The City's Sustainability Revolving Fund (SRF) provides money for environmental sustainability projects that are related to the City's sustainability goals. The SRF is replenished/repaid with the savings or avoided costs of the projects. The first year following completion of a full year post-project, 50% of any realized cost savings is put back in to the SRF. In each of the subsequent two years, 25% of the savings is put back in to the SRF. The City originally seeded the SRF with \$50,000 and the balance has increased. To date, total energy efficiency project costs are \$167,000 with \$65,000 of those costs awarded through the SRF. Peter noted several examples of how funds have been used internally, including the purchase of propane mowers by City facilities staff, installation of underwater LED lights at the aquatics center and new "fix-it" bike repair stations at public locations like the library.

Peter discussed the idea of taking part of the City's internal SRF funds to create a grant fund to assist community organizations with sustainability projects.

Task Force member comments:

- Consider supporting projects that help move our indicators in a positive direction.
- Install more bike racks in Downtown and other areas around the city, and better cycling infrastructure generally.
- Provide an energy efficiency incentive program for small businesses, HOA's, grange centers, etc.
- Direct a program toward the four indicators in the Annual Report that are trending the wrong way.
- Be careful with the level of reporting that is required for any type of the grant funding. If it is too lengthy/difficult, organizations may not apply.
- Rather than create new incentives, perhaps add to existing incentives; a bonus.
- Provide money up front for small businesses and organizations in concert with Energy Trust (ETO) efforts, which can then be paid back when their ETO funds are provided.
- Use funds to provide "on-demand" car sharing service that targets employees and employers in "last mile" areas. Related comment: there is a lack of disincentive for single occupancy vehicle trips.
- Provide funds for bio swales at schools and HOAs; could also be a great educational opportunity.
- Provide a place for people to find available community resources (recycling centers, etc.) all in one place and that is easily accessible.
- Larger businesses can make larger choices – smaller businesses may not always be able to make the best environmental choices due to financial constraints.
- Provide funds for part-time interns to help organizations implement sustainability projects/programs – e.g., a coordinator for waste reduction efforts.

Member Updates

- Jeff: Beginning next week, the WTA in partnership with Kaiser Permanente will launch a bike share program pilot through August.

- Laura: OHSU's West Campus electricity use will be on track to use the same amount of energy as in 2011 even with new buildings added to their portfolio. Overall, energy use is down 12% and EUI is down 13% from the FY 2011-12 baseline.
- Tacy: The City has applied for a water rights permit from the City of Salem to be able to pull water from the Willamette River. The application was submitted two week ago and is open for public comment. The goal is to access mid-Willamette water by 2026. Also, the City has partnered with PGE and is participating in PGE's Dispatchable Power Program (diesel backup generators). With close coordination and approval, PGE has the ability to turn down or turn off power demand at the water treatment plant during times of high energy demand and in return pays the City (~\$36,000 to date). OHSU and Kaiser Westside also participate in this program.
- Linda: Our HOA worked with Energy Trust and saved thousands of dollars by changing out inefficient lighting to LED.
- Heather: Washington County Solid Waste and Recycling offers free waste and cost reduction technical assistance for businesses in Washington County.
- The City, County and School District are cohosting and Eco Fair and Tire Collection event on Saturday, April 29 from 10am - 1pm at Lincoln Elementary School. For more information visit Hillsboro-Oregon.gov/ecofair.
- Heidi: Tobias Elementary School collected 1,300 pounds of waste plastic and was the winner of a recent plastics collection challenge.
- Willy: Recent updates to the mechanical systems at the Westside Medical Center resulted in energy savings of 30% as compared to the system design as part of the facility's LEED Gold certification. A new LEED Platinum hospital will be built in San Diego and will be the first hospital to achieve Platinum in the U.S. There are also plans to build a net-zero hospital in Sacramento.
- Anthony: The Hillsboro City Council is committed to the City's sustainability goals and moving them forward.
- Evan: Insomnia is hiring their first Operations Director which will allow Evan to focus more on sustainability and other initiatives.
- Peter: The City's Comprehensive Plan is nearly complete and will likely go to Council this year for approval. The City participates in the EPA Better Buildings Challenge and has achieved a 25% improvement in energy use over a 2009 baseline.

Public Comment

None

Upcoming Activities

- Partner Survey: April 25 - May 26
- HSTF Meeting: June 19, 3:00 – 5:00, Hillsboro Civic Center
- HSTF Meeting: October 23, 3:00 – 5:00, Jackson Bottom Wetlands Preserve
- HSTF Annual Report Council Presentation: August (TBD)